

~~W. H.~~
W. H. Garrison

Boston, June 3, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

284 A whole week has transpired since I recd your explanatory letter into my hands, when I did not mean to allow twenty-four hours to elapse before answering it. So much for continual interruptions and engagements.

At our annual meeting in January, I was surprised at what seemed to me the sombre and discouraging view of the state of our cause ~~which~~ taken by Mrs. Foster, Mr. Higginson, and yourself; and, in order to give a more cheerful tone to the meeting, I indulged in a little plessantry—not ~~desiring~~ of giving any offence, or exciting any feeling, in any breast. On leave of the platform, however, Mr. Higginson followed me into the ante-room, and exhibited a good deal of excitement—accusing me of attacking him personally, and attempting to throw ridicule upon him. All that I could do was to protest that I had not singled him out ^{for vindictive criticism} as he had declared, and that I only aimed to throw a little sunshine upon what I thought was a depressing state of the atmosphere.

He did not seem willing to accept my explanation, but left me in an inflamed mood of mind, averring that I had made him the special target of my ridicule - &c. I was greatly surprised at his sensitiveness, and especially at his unwillingness to receive my statement as satisfactory; but I could do no more in the premises.

In the afternoon of the same day, you made a rejoinder to my speech - a speech which I understood you to say you did not hear - wherein you held me up to the audience, ~~so~~ (so I understood your remarks at the time, and so did all with whom I then conversed,) as sniffling out for scurrilous abuse and low ridicule Abby Kelley Foster; and intimating that, at some future day, in view of "her cracked voice and gray hair," hardly worn herself out in the service of the slave, it would be no very pleasant recollection to me that I had sought to make her a laughing-stock - &c. Your aim ~~if~~ seemed to be to excite for her the deepest sympathy of the audience, and ~~the more~~ ^{indignant} consequently strong feelings of condemnation against myself. I thought you manifested a perturbed state of mind, and a good deal of personal feeling on the occasion. No single occurrence ever took me more by surprise, or filled me with greater astonishment; no ~~case~~ rebuke ever seemed to me more uncalled for, no impeachment

more gouty-tous and angust. At the conclusion of your remark, I rose, and, expressing my surprise at what had fallen from your lips, and that you could conceive it possible for me to hold up to ridicule the "cracked voice and gray hairs" of one I so loved and honored as A. K. L., (who has not a gray hair in her head, I am told,) I emphatically disclaimed the charge, and cast it from me with as the poles asunder; ~~and~~ saying that if you had heard my speech, you could not possibly have ~~then~~ ~~cast~~ such an impression upon me. Mrs. Foster followed me, exonerating me from the impression, and declaring that she took no offence at my language. Under these circumstances, I was greatly surprised and pained that you did not come forward, and express your gratification to find that you had got a wrong impression of what had fallen from my lips in your absence from the meeting ~~and~~ and I felt your silence most keenly.

In your letter, you say that you protested against ~~the~~ the construction I had placed upon your ~~—~~ criticism, both while sitting upon the sofa behind me, and afterwards openly in remarks ~~—~~ before the meeting. To this, I can only say that I have no recollection of any distinct disclaimer on your part as touching the substance of your ^{independent} ~~opinion~~ — (that is, holding up to ridicule, with her "cracked voice," &c.) She herself, at the close of the anniversary, begged me to throw it all ^{overlook it,} into oblivion,

apologize for you that you were sick, and consequently ⁱⁿ a somewhat morbid state. I followed her advice, and let it pass; though, as Mr. Phillips told you, (not only without my consent, but in opposition to my express injunction to ~~the doctor~~ say nothing to you on the subject,) I very keenly felt the ^{severe and} unmerited rebuke you gave me ~~at~~ on that occasion.

Referring to this unpleasant collision, (which to me came "like hail from a clear sky,") you say, "Now it seemed to me at that time, that I was the injured party. You put most severe & unjust words into my mouth, which I did not utter, could not utter, and then commented upon them with very great harshness, indeed." Though I may not have ^{given} ~~understand~~ your language verbatim, do ~~you mean~~ to say that you did not represent me as acting ⁱⁿ an unfeeling & cold & cruelly satirical manner toward Abby? — nor mean any such thing? What, then, did you mean and say? ^{for who} ~~the~~ every body ^{present} understood ^{what} I did? Can you recall your words? ^{I cast no personal reflections} was I censorable? I used no names, but only spoke of the unusually lugubrious speeches that had been made that day, and tried to relieve the sombre shading of the picture — nothing more. The effect was certainly instantaneous — the relief universal.

I heartily accept the express in of you "deep regrets and deeper sorrow" that you should have "seemed" to do me injustice; and as I as freely say that I am not less regretful ~~that~~ if I have at any time, in your judgment, misrepresented or misinterpreted your words or actions. It has not been in my heart to do so; and I sincerely wish "tyranny to be banished."

I would on another subject. You say - "From my stand-point, and with my experience, I am compelled to differ with you in my estimate of the Republican party," ~~and~~ ^{as} you add - "Certainly, I cannot possibly regard that party, as you pronounced it, 'the hope of the country.'" This quotation does me gross injustice, and I am sorry to see it in your letter. It is part of a dislocated sentence - a fraction of a very cautious and definite statement. After saying, "My hope is in the Republican party," I added with emphasis - "Mark me! not the Republican party ~~as it~~ ^{now} stands, or as to its non-extension policy, but as to its materials, - embodying as it does the intelligence, virtue, moral sentiment, and political ^{A.S.} feeling of the North, - in contrast ^{to} the thoroughly demoralized, pro-slavery ~~spirit~~ ^{the Northern mind} Democratic party, which is ready to do any thing demanded by the Slave Power; and so, out of those materials, working up ^{to} our stand-point of disunion." If I had said, "My hope is in the Republican party," and left the remark unexplained, I should have falsified all my declarations against it, - I regard

